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MILITARY

(Negative)

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KB Jenkins/RI Owen/
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EXTERNAL - POLITICAL

1. Bloc Meeting: The Soviet press maintained complete silence on what was undoubtedly the current main focus of political interest in the communist world -- the meeting of communist leaders which apparently began on Nov. 10. Indeed, the only press indications that top-level communist delegations continued to be in Moscow were given in a few brief announcements of wreath-laying ceremonies at the Lenin-Stalin mausoleum, and in a picture taken at the opening of a Ukrainian cultural festival in Moscow. (Interestingly enough, this picture did not show any of the Chinese delegation in Khrushchev's immediate entourage.) There were no overt indications as to the duration of the meeting, although the Embassy learned that it would continue until Nov. 20.

2. US Elections: What comment there was on the US election results continued to develop the theme that the voters had expressed themselves against the policies of the Eisenhower administration, against its policy toward the Soviet Union as exemplified by the U-2 incident, and against the "cold war." The close popular vote was explained by the argument that Americans were faced with a difficult choice in the election. In this connection it was noted that only 67 out of 108 million persons of voting age actually cast their ballots. It was projected that of those who did not vote, some were disenfranchised by Jim Crow laws and others preferred not to vote than to give their ballot to either the Democratic or Republican candidates.

Soviet comment took note of Senator Kennedy's aim to revitalize the United States and especially its economy. One Pravda article, whose main theme was to contrast the internal divisions and external fall in prestige of the US with the growth of Soviet "international authority" and the unity of the bloc, found a symbol in the fact that Kennedy was born in the year of the Bolshevik revolution.

Soviet public media were careful to reserve opinion on Kennedy and let pass without comment his declared intention to retain CIA Director Allen Dulles and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover in his administration. There was a certain amount of anti-Nixon material and cartoons in the press, which in a way might be regarded as a substitute for positive comment on Kennedy himself. Other evidence that the Soviets have adopted a cautiously optimistic attitude on the possibility of improved relations with the US under the Kennedy administration were: the fact that the Embassy received a few telegrams of congratulation on Kennedy's victory, statements made by Soviet officials privately to Embassy officers that improved relations with the US are in the offing, and favorable press treatment of the recent conference of Americans and Soviets at Dartmouth College organized by Norman Cousins.

3. Uprisings and Disturbances in the Free World (South Vietnam, Laos, and Guatemala). The Soviet propaganda machine pulled a boner when it prematurely claimed that the unsuccessful rebellion in South Vietnam meant that Diem was following Nuri Said, Syngman Rhee, Mendez, and other Eastern "puppets" into oblivion. In later reports that Diem had regained

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control of the government in Saigon with American help, Soviet propaganda undercut its earlier claim that the events in South Vietnam were but further evidence of the decline in US prestige around the globe.

A Pravda "Observer" article noted that recent events in Laos had taken a "highly dangerous turn." The article charged the US with trying to strangle Laos economically, open support of the Phoumi rebellion against Souvanna, exerting pressure on the King to act against Souvanna, and readiness to resort to direct military intervention if circumstances require it. The article concluded that this presents a serious danger to Laos, to its neighbors, and to peace in Southeast Asia.

In reporting the Guatemala situation, the Soviet press presented conflicting information. One report on Nov. 15 stated that the revolt, which was initiated by "workers and revolutionary parties," had been suppressed. Later reports said that the uprising was led by Army officers and that the insurgents were in control of large parts of the eastern section of Guatemala. A report in the Nov. 17 press indicated that the rebels had connections with Castro-Cuba.

4. Congo: Kasavubu's arrival in New York led to increased Soviet press attention to Congo, which of late has been confined largely to brief news agency stories about spreading disorder and Mobutu's alleged loss of influence. The press treatment of Kasavubu at the UNGA was highly critical. He was represented as usurping the powers of parliament in going to New York in the first place, and as in effect being a tool in the hands of the imperialists. Pravda (Nov. 16) front-paged a summary of Lumumba's Nov. 11 letter to UNGA President Boland containing the proposal for a referendum with a UN observer commission. While the Soviets are of course aware that this proposal is a practical impossibility, they may feel it useful to back it in order to support the contention that Lumumba is the only force in Congo willing and able to submit to popular decision.

5. Cuba: The prominence which the Guevara delegation is receiving here was again illustrated at the November 14 reception given by the Cuban Ambassador in honor of Guevara. Khrushchev, Mikoyan, Aristov and Kosygin all turned up at the reception and the Moscow press front-paged the account of the affair. Guevara's toast, as published, specifically referred to Khrushchev's rocket threat as "symbolic" and claimed it "put a stop to the criminal bands of the imperialists." In thanking the Soviets for assistance, Guevara stated that he spoke on behalf of all the people of Latin America, adding "Cuba now speaks not only for the interest of a small island, but for the freedom of the people of the whole American continent."

The Guevara delegation departed on November 16 for Peiping. TASS reported that the delegation now plans to visit Ulan Bator and Hanoi as well as Pyongyang. The report also added that they will resume negotiations here after returning from the Asian part of their trip.

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6. Berlin: On November 12 Khrushchev sent a brief message of support to the "International Student's Seminar For a Peaceful Solution of the German Question" being held in East Berlin's Humboldt University. The message, which was carried in all Moscow papers, reiterated Khrushchev's call "to liquidate the remnants of the second World War by concluding a peace treaty with both German states, and resolve, on this basis, the question of West Berlin by turning it into a Free City." He added "the sooner the peace treaty is concluded, the sooner the peace of Europe and the whole world will be guaranteed."

Khrushchev's statement came after a period of several weeks in which no reference to Berlin has appeared here.

7. Friendship University: The new Friendship of Peoples University received a ceremonial opening on November 17 although it has actually been operating since October 1. Khrushchev in the main speech declared that the university has been created in order to permit the children of workers, who otherwise would have been unable to receive higher education, to attain the highest possible level of qualification. The University, he declared, will thus serve the cause of freedom and assist "the attack against the bastions of colonialism."

The Soviet press was dominated for two days prior to the ceremony by feature material on the University including congratulatory messages from Nehru, Sihanouk, and Sekou Toure. A number of foreign educators also attended the ceremony which included minor speeches by the rector of Bombay University, the President of the Indonesia Gadjah Mada University, and the Director of the Amegadzhi College in Ghana.

INTERNAL

8. Leadership: From published reports of leadership activity during the past week, party life in Moscow would seem, on the surface, to have been fairly tranquil. Presumably, however, the Moscow resident Leadership has been intimately involved in intra-party discussions now in progress with the bloc and non-bloc party-government delegations. Meanwhile, Soviet leaders found time for other activities.

With the exception of N.M. SHVERNIK, all full members of the Presidium and also candidate members P.N. POSPELOV and D.S. KOROTCHENKO attended the opening performance in the Ukrainian Festival (Dekada) which commenced here November 12, and eight of them including N.S. KHRUSHCHEV attended another Dekada performance November 16. Chairman of the Presidium of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Korotchenko was present when Ye. A. FURTSEVA, as Minister of Culture, opened an Ukrainian art exhibit in Moscow November 12.

There has been no information to indicate that any non-Moscow resident Party Presidium figures are in the capital other than N.V. PODGORNYY and Korotchenko whose presence can be attributed to the Ukrainian Dekada. A.P. KIRILENKO, the only Presidium personage for whose activity the Embassy

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had been unable to account a week ago (WEEKAS No. 46 of November 11, 1960) was reported by Pravda of November 13 as having delivered a speech at a meeting of the party aktiv in Sverdlovsk Oblast where he is first secretary of the party committee.

Khrushchev lent his presence to those of A.B. ARISTOV, A.N. KOSYGIN and A.I. MIKOYAN at the Cuban Embassy reception for the Cuban economic delegation November 14, and received the Indian Ambassador November 15. He also appeared and spoke briefly at the formal opening of "Peoples Friendship University" November 17. On this latter occasion, his entourage did not include any of the top Party leadership, but did include K. Ye. Voroshilov. This seems yet another deliberate boost to the prestige position now being publicly accorded Voroshilov (See WEEKAS Nos. 45, Nov. 5, and 46, Nov. 11). Khrushchev not only delivered the main speech, but also received the University's first medal.

The prestige of F.R. KOZLOV, who attended a reception for a Cuban youth delegation on November 11, was not injured by an announcement that his November 6 speech is to be released in 100,000 copies. The November 7 holiday traditionally has provided the occasion for publishing similar speeches in large numbers (A.B. Aristov in 1959 and A.I. Mikoyan in 1958).

9. Civil War Anniversary: Despite the heavy press and other propaganda media build-up for the 40th anniversary of the closing of the Russian Civil War November 16, no prominent party officials seem to have attended the anniversary eve meeting in Moscow nor was Minister of Defense R. Ya. Malinovskiy reported to be present. "Old Bolsheviks" K. Ye. Voroshilov and S. M. Budennyi headed the list of marshals, generals and "veterans" said to have been present. Voroshilov's name appeared as author of Red Star's lead article for the day, Budennyi "authored" a comparable article for Pravda, and Marshal K. Rokossovskiy had a byline for the Izvestiya lead article the previous evening. In the pertinent materials published this week, relatively more attention was paid to the civil war itself and less to the "foreign intervention" and the US role in attempting to overthrow the bolsheviks.

Although not surprising or unusual that the Commissar for War during that historic period, Leon Trotsky, should be ignored in the reminiscences, so many other leading participants on the Soviet side were also ignored as to give the impression that Lenin, M.V. Frunze, Voroshilov and Budennyi won the war and drove out the interventionists with some help from lesser figures like field commanders V.I. Chapayev and V.K. Blyukher. Reviews of a new five volume book "History of the Civil War in the USSR" have been much more generous in assigning credits, not neglecting to include the name N.S. Khrushchev in an alphabetical list of bolshevik-leninists who contributed substantially to the victory under Lenin's leadership.

A comment in the November 15 Red Star review of the fifth volume is a good illustration of the rewriting of history which has made the US the chief imperialist-interventionist: "The data in the fifth volume show graphically that the blame for the sanguinary and protracted Civil War in the USSR rests

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with the imperialist states, and primarily with the United States, that main ringleader of the aggressors."

10. Ministerial Changes in Tadzhikistan SSR: The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Tadzhik SSR has released Tadzhik CC member R. Tursunov as Chair of the Commission of Soviet Control under the Council of Ministers of the Tadzhik SSR in connection with "transfer to other duties." (Kommunist Tadzhikistana, November 16). At the same time it was announced that his replacement will be CC member M.M. Bazarbaeva who is being released for this purpose as Social Security Minister. The new Minister of Social Security will be CC member A. Rakhimova.

11. Shifts in Turkmen Party Bureau: Following work on substantive agricultural problems, a plenum of the Turkmen Central Committee November 10 took up organizational questions, releasing K. Redzhebov from the bureau "in connection with transfer to other duties." (Turkmenskaya Iskra November 11.) A bureau member since February 1961, CC member Redzhyebov was released as Turkmen Sovnarkhoz Chairman September 28 with the same reason given. His present release from the bureau may reflect only his changed status in the government. Redzhyebov's replacement as Sovnarkhoz chairman, bureau candidate member P.P. Galonskiy, was elected a full bureau member and B.F. Burashnikov, a first deputy chairman of the Turkmen Council of Ministers since September, was elected a candidate member of the party bureau.

MILITARY (Negative)

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